

**Russell E. Train:
To Conserve as We Create**

The Honorable Russell E. Train was Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency when he addressed The Economic Club of Chicago on April 25, 1974 on the relationship between the environment, urban growth and the current energy crisis.



“We have become the most powerful and prosperous nation in the world. But we have learned, over recent years, that both our power and our prosperity are subject to increasing constraints. We have discovered that

there are rather severe limits to our ability to employ our military might to further our ends abroad. Our economic position in the world markets has become less stable and secure. At home, where once we imagined we had uncovered the secrets to endless economic growth, we have found ourselves beset by both inflationary and recessionary pressures at one and the same time. We have seen our first serious efforts at ‘social engineering’ fall far short of their aims. The more our standard of living continues to rise, the less satisfied we become with the quality and character of our lives. We find that as we become increasingly able to afford the ‘good life,’ it becomes increasingly impossible to buy...

“Our growing environmental concerns, and most recently the energy crisis, have combined with gathering force to make us understand that we do not have unlimited room or resources. We are starting to see that our energy and environmental ills stem, essentially, from the same source: from patterns of growth and development that waste our energy resources just as liberally as they lay waste our natural environment. We no longer live in a time when we were few and the land was wide and waiting for us. We have reached the point where we can no longer insulate ourselves from the punishment and pollution we visit upon the earth

and the atmosphere, and where the natural resources we once regarded as so endlessly available and expendable are becoming increasingly hard to get...

“As world population continues to explode, the world’s fossil fuel supplies are rapidly diminishing. Yet it is those fuel supplies that have enabled American agriculture to perform such prodigies of production, and that are the vital ingredient in both American food production technology and the Green Revolution. If we are to produce enough food to meet the rapidly growing demand abroad as well as our own needs at home, we must begin to explore such energy-saving measures in agriculture as the substitution of labor for energy and of animal and green manure for chemical fertilizer, the more efficient use of machinery, the greater use of mechanical cultivation rather than herbicides, the breeding of disease, insect and bird resistant seeds, the transport of materials by train rather than truck...

“Perhaps our most enduring changes must come in our patterns of urban growth, in the way we organize our activities in our urban areas. We hear it said, often, that most of our urban ills are the result of overcrowding and congestion. There are just too many people we are told, jammed together in much too small a space. Yet what creates the sense of overcrowding and congestion is not simply the number of people who live and work in our urban areas, but rather the fact that their jobs, homes, shopping centers, recreation areas are strewn like debris across the length and breadth of the landscape...

“The spread patterns of settlement and development that characterize our urban areas are the unfortunate legacy of our old illusion that we had endless acres of land to build on and unlimited energy to burn. Unlike the cities of Europe, where land was scarce and small, our cities did not grow up—they grew out...

“We need to bring our cities back together and

reduce all the unnecessary travel and travail that, in Wilfred Owen's words, result 'from the inconvenience of having things located in the wrong places.' More compact forms of urban settlement and growth would be far more conservative of both energy and environment and far more conducive to the 'good life' that we so ardently seek...

"In general, all of these changes that I have suggested would reduce our demands upon our resources and our environment while, in many respects, improving the quality of our life...

"For, the energy and environmental ills that afflict us, along with a great many other aggravations that seem so inseparable a part of modern life, are in large measure the result, not simply of how much and how fast we grow, but of how we grow, of the character and composition and quality of growth.

"We can and should seize upon the energy crisis as a good excuse and a great opportunity for making some very fundamental changes that we ought to be making anyway for other reasons...

"Our first priority — in any national strategy that seeks to get at the roots of our energy crisis — must be to move gradually toward a deep and enduring reduction in the growth rate of energy demand. We need, at the same time, to move carefully and cautiously in the extraction and use of our current fossil fuel supplies, making certain that we apply the most effective and advanced techniques available for keeping environmental damage to the barest minimum. We need, finally, to undertake an intensive R&D effort to develop economically and technologically feasible ways of living off of our energy income rather than our energy capital, off of our renewable rather than our nonrenewable energy supplies, off of the sun, wind, tides and geothermal heat rather than off our finite and rapidly falling reserves of fossil fuel.

"If we are to come to grips with the issues that I have touched upon — with what might be call the problems of growth — we are going to have to make some rather far-reaching changes...

"To begin with, we are going to have to find new kinds of political leaders — leaders who understand that the fundamental issues before us are not always the isolated and immediate ones, but the interrelated and the long-range ones. Leaders who understand that, in an age of growing scarcities, the ancient and honored practice of promising more of everything, of guaranteeing two chickens in every pot and two cars in every garage, is neither relevant nor responsible; leaders, in short, who understand that less is often better."

**Katharine Graham:
To Tell or Not To Tell**

Mrs. Katharine Graham was chairman of the board of The Washington Post Company when she addressed The Economic Club of Chicago on February 10, 1976, on the press and its responsibilities.



"Difficult judgments can be required when our First Amendment obligation, the obligation to inform, collides with other basic interests and values that are served, or at least arguably served, by secrecy...

"Let me start by posing two large questions that are asked repeatedly and with a growing air of concern, not only by critics of the press but also by many journalists. The first is what are the responsibilities of the press for the consequences of what we print...?"

"The second question is whether the present way of dealing with these conflicts is so unreliable that a better system should be devised to reconcile the interest and values that collide, and to discipline the press or push us to discipline ourselves..."

"Let me summarize the major arguments for some